

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-07 COME-00 CU-02
LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 ERDA-05 EPA-01 NSF-01
OES-07 INT-05 FEA-01 DOTE-00 /117 W
-----272020Z 089952 /72

R 271645Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4658
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV PINT WB
SUBJ: POLICY DECLARATION OF NEW BERLIN GOVERNMENT

1. SUMMARY: GOVMAYOR STOBBE READ TO BERLIN PARLIAMENT
ON MAY 26 POLICY DECLARATION OF NEW BERLIN SENAT. STOBBE
EMPHASIZED STRENGTHENING ECONOMY AND IMPROVEMENT IN
COMMUNAL AFFAIRS. IN CONTRAST TO SIMILAR STATE-
MENTS BY HIS PREDECESSORS, STOBBE DEEMPHASIZED INTER-
NATIONAL ASPECT OF BERLIN POLICY. PUBLIC REACTION
HAS BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE ALTHOUGH SOME POLITICAL
COMMENTATORS BELIEVE STOBBE MAY BE PROMISING MORE THAN
HE CAN DELIVER OVER NEXT TWO YEARS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT REGULAR MEETING OF BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON MAY 26, NEW GOVERNING MAYOR DIETRICH STOBBE READ
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POLICY DECLARATION OF NEW BERLIN GOVERNMENT. STOBBE
STRESSED THAT SENAT WOULD CONCENTRATE ON FOUR AREAS:
IMPROVEMENT IN BERLIN ECONOMIC SITUATION; IMPROVEMENT
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT (THINGS THAT CONCERN CITIZENS ON
DAILY BASIS); IMPROVEMENT OF BERLIN'S IMAGE AND
REAWAKENING PRIDE OF BERLIN'S CITIZENS IN THEIR CITY;
AND MAINTENANCE OF BERLIN AS SYMBOL OF UNIFIED GERMANY.

HE ALSO DECLARED THAT POLITICAL CRONYISM WOULD BE ELIMINATED.

3. STOBBE OUTLINED NUMBER OF MEASURES THAT SENAT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC SITUATION, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF ECONOMIC PROMOTION ORGANIZATION, SIMPLIFICATION OF INVESTMENT PROCEDURES, AND MAKING MORE INDUSTRIAL LAND AVAILABLE. STOBBE, WITH FLOURISH, ANNOUNCED THAT FRG HAD AGREED TO ABOLITION (IN TWO STAGES) OF PAYROLL TAX FOR BERLIN FIRMS. STOBBE ALSO OUTLINED NUMBER OF MEASURES THAT SENAT PLANNED TO TAKE TO CREATE NEW JOBS AND APPRENTICESHIPS IN BERLIN, PARTICULARLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ENTERING JOB MARKET FOR FIRST TIME.

4. STOBBE VIRTUALLY ADMITTED THAT POWER PLANT AT OBER-JAEGERWEG WAS DEAD BUT NOTED THAT SENAT WANTED TO ANALYZE WRITTEN BASIS OF SUPERIOR ADMINISTRATIVE COURT DECISION OF MAY 2 BEFORE CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES. HE NOTED THAT IN ANY EVENT, THERE WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL DELAY IN MEETING FUTURE POWER NEEDS ON PERMANENT BASIS AND THOUGHT THAT SOME TRANSITIONAL MEANS OF MEETING FUTURE POWER NEEDS OF NEXT FEW YEARS WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND. (NOTE: WE UNDERSTAND THAT GAS TURBINE PLANTS BEING CONSIDERED IN THIS RESPECT.) ON ENERGY, STOBBE SAID THE SENAT WOULD INSURE THAT BERLIN'S ELECTRIC POWER REQUIREMENTS ARE AT ALL TIMES MET. TO DO SO, IT IS NECESSARY TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL BASE-LOAD CAPACITY. THE SENAT WILL NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECIDE ON THE LOCATION FOR A NEW BASE-LOAD GENERATING PLANT UNTIL AFTER IT HAS ANALYZED THE WRITTEN BASIS, EXPECTED TO BECOME AVAILABLE IN JUNE, OF THE MAY 2 DECISION OF THE SUPERIOR ADMINISTRATIVE COURT (USBERLIN 2702). (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT SENAT CALCULATES THAT A NEW BASE-LOAD PLANT CANNOT BE COMPLETED IN TIME TO MEET EXPECTED NEED IN 1981, AND THAT TRANSITIONAL GAS-TURBINE PEAKLOAD PLANT IS BEING SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED FOR THE INTERIM.)

5. STOBBE OUTLINED NEW GOALS FOR SENAT IN COMMUNAL POLICY: EQUALIZATION OF QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL DISTRICTS WHEREBY POORER AREAS WILL RECEIVE MORE ATTENTION THAN IN PAST; RENEWAL AND RENOVATION OF CENTRAL CITY; AND BETTER COOPERATION WITH DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIONS. HE ALSO STATED THAT PLANS WILL BE DEVELOPED TO MAKE BERLIN AN EVEN GREATER CENTER FOR CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, TRADE FAIRS, CONGRESSES, AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITIONS.

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R 271645Z MAY 77
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6. IN CONTRAST TO SCHUETZ AND OTHER PREDECESSORS,
STOBBE DELIBERATELY COVERED INTERNATIONAL ASPECT OF
BERLIN POLICY LAST. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO
ALLIES FOR ALL THEY HAVE DONE FOR BERLIN AND PARTI-
CULARLY FOR RECENT BERLIN DECLARATION AT LONDON.
IN AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO SUCH
MEASURES AS CDU "STERNFAHRT" OF LAST AUGUST AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE IN
BERLIN, STOBBE DECLARED THAT TIES BETWEEN BERLIN AND
FRG SHOULD BE PRACTICED AND NOT DEMONSTRATED. ("DIE
BINDUNGEN HABEN WIR, UM SIE ZU PRAKTIZIEREN, NICHT
UM DAMIT ZU DEMONSTRIEREN") STOBBE SAID THAT
BUILDING OF AUTOBAHN TO HAMBURG WAS ONE OF MOST IMPOR-
TANT UNDERTAKINGS OF TWO GERMAN STATES AND NOTED THAT
AFTER CONSULTATION WITH FRG AND AGREEMENT OF ALLIES,
SENAT WOULD SEEK AGREEMENT WITH GDR ON ADDITIONAL PRAC-
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TICAL IMPROVEMENTS BEYOND PRESENTLY PLANNED NORTHERN CROSSING POINT, SPANDAU LOCK, SUEDEGELAENDE RAIL FREIGHT COMPLEX AND TELTOW CANAL.

7. REACTION TO STOBBE'S GOVERNMENT DECLARATION HAS BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE ALTHOUGH SPRINGER PRESS (MORGENPOST, DIE WELT) PREDICTABLY WAS CRITICAL. MORGENPOST THOUGHT IT WAS WELL AND GOOD FOR STOBBE TO PROMISE AN END TO POLITICAL CRONYISM BUT NOTED THAT THIS CONTRASTED WITH REALITY OF RECENT NOMINATION OF WOLFGANG HAUS, FORMER SPD CAUCUS CHAIRMAN IN HOUSE OF REPS, AS NEW INTENDANT OF RADIO FREE BERLIN. PAPER STATED (CORRECTLY, WE BELIEVE) THAT HAUS' POLITICAL BACKGROUND ASSURES HIM ELECTION OVER OTHER CANDIDATES WHO MAY BE BETTER QUALIFIED. (MORGENPOST COULD ALSO HAVE NOTED THAT STOBBE HAS CREATED POSITIONS IN HIS ADMINISTRATION FOR FORMER PRESS CHIEF STRUVE, AS NEW CHIEF OF FILM PROMOTION OFFICE, AND SCHUETZ AIDE ERNEST LUUK, WHO WILL BECOME HEAD OF INFORMATION CENTER; BOTH APPOINTMENTS CLEARLY SMACK OF CRONYISM). EVEN NORMALLY FRIENDLY SPANDAUER VOLKSBLATT THOUGHT THAT STOBBE HAD PROMISED MORE THAN HE COULD DELIVER IN TWO YEARS. HOWEVER, ALL COMMENTATORS AGREE THAT STOBBE'S THOUGHTFUL, SINCERE PRESENTATION AT LEAST HAS GIVEN HIS NEW ADMINISTRATION PSYCHOLOGICAL BASIS FOR SMOOTH BEGINNING. IT IS NOW UP TO NEW GOVERNING MAYOR AND HIS SENAT COLLEAGUES TO PRODUCE. DEBATE ON GOVERNMENT DECLARATION WAS POSTPONED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO SPECIAL MEETING OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON JUNE 2. GEORGE

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